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Viewing cable 09TRIPOLI64, AL-QADHAFI: THE PHILOSOPHER-KING KEEPS HIS HAND IN

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09TRIPOLI64**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09TRIPOLI64	2009-01-28 14:20	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Tripoli

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/wikileaks-files/libya-wikileaks/>

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VZCZCXRO0588
OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHFL RUEHKUK RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHTRO #0064/01 0281420
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O P 281420Z JAN 09 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4373
INFO RUEHDE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUEHDL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 4897
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 TRIPOLI 000064

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/MAG (JOHNSON), INR/NESA (HOFSTATTER) AND S/P (BEHRMAN)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/27/2019

TAGS: PGOV PREL ECON EFIN KCOR PINR LY

SUBJECT: AL-QADHAFI: THE PHILOSOPHER-KING KEEPS HIS HAND IN

REF:

A) TRIPOLI 37,
B) 08 TRIPOLI 994,
C) 08 TRIPOLI 0036,
D) 08 TRIPOLI 481,
E) 08 TRIPOLI 530,
F) 08 TRIPOLI 478 (NOTAL),
G) 08 TRIPOLI 515,
H) 08 TRIPOLI 227,
I) 08 TRIPOLI 896,
J) 08 TRIPOLI 936,
J) TRIPOLI 0017 TRIPOLI 00000064 001.2 OF 004

CLASSIFIED BY: Gene A. Cretz, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy - Tripoli, U.S. Dept of State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (C) Summary: Despite a carefully cultivated image as a philosopher-king with no formal title and persistent rumors that he is passing day-to-day as a philosopher-king, al-Qadhafi has since the early 1990's sought to propagate his image as "Guide of the Revolution". While the definition of a philosopher-king is subjective, al-Qadhafi's image as a philosopher-king is well-known. AL-QADHAFI: SHOW ME THE MONEY

2. (C) Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi has since the early 1990's sought to propagate his image as "Guide of the Revolution". While the definition of a philosopher-king is subjective, al-Qadhafi's image as a philosopher-king is well-known. AL-QADHAFI: SHOW ME THE MONEY

3. (C) Notwithstanding his carefully cultivated image as a man of history above pettifogging details, a protege of Abuzeid Dorda, former Prime Minister of Libya, al-Qadhafi has used the 'riqaba' committee to ensure that political patronage is properly distributed, i.e., that GOL entities headed by al-Qadhafi are properly distributed. AL-QADHAFI: SHOW ME THE MONEY

4. (C) Al-Qadhafi has used the 'riqaba' committee to ensure that political patronage is properly distributed, i.e., that GOL entities headed by al-Qadhafi are properly distributed. AL-QADHAFI: SHOW ME THE MONEY

5. (C) A well-connected Libyan national employed with a U.S. company operating here confirmed that al-Qadhafi is deeply involved in the work of the 'riqaba' committee. AL-QADHAFI: SHOW ME THE MONEY

6. (C) In addition, our contact said the 'riqaba' committee's writ extends far beyond auditing and review and into actual project management as well as political patronage. AL-QADHAFI: SHOW ME THE MONEY

7. (C) In addition to his activist role in commercial affairs, al-Qadhafi's recent interventions in other high-profile issues undermine the credibility of his image as a philosopher-king. AL-QADHAFI: SHOW ME THE MONEY

8 (C) Al-Qadhafi also actively follows sensitive human rights issues. In March, a request for GOL assistance in facilitating a visit by an Emir of Qatar to Tripoli was denied. AL-QADHAFI: SHOW ME THE MONEY

9. (C) Although he has done so quietly, al-Qadhafi has also played an active role in the process of political-economic reform currently under way in Libya. AL-QADHAFI: SHOW ME THE MONEY

10. (C) Comment: Despite persistent rumors that he is in ill health and/or delegating day-to-day decisionmaking as part of an orchestrated succession, al-Qadhafi remains the central figure in Libya. CRETZ